

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Canceled)

1 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and
2 second controller devices are located in geographically remote locations relative to each other.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and
2 second controller devices communicate over a second data communication network different
3 from the data communication network.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the server
2 communicates with the first controller device over the data communication network.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the second
2 controller communicates with the first client device over the data communication network.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the second
2 controller device communicates with the storage system over a storage area network.

1 30. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering streaming data content to a
2 client device from two or more controller devices over a data communication network in
3 response to a request for the data content from the client device, wherein the data content
4 includes two or more blocks of data stored on a storage system, the method comprising:
5 receiving, by a server, a request from a first client device over the data
6 communication network, the request identifying streaming data content stored on a storage
7 system;

8 transmitting a data request message from the server to a first controller device
9 associated with the storage system, the data request message identifying the first client device
10 and the data content requested by the first client device;
11 retrieving a first block of the data content from the storage system by the first
12 controller device;
13 sending a second data request message from the first controller device to a second
14 controller device associated with the storage system, the second data request message identifying
15 the first client device and a second block of the data content;
16 retrieving the second block of the data content from the storage system by the
17 second controller device;
18 transferring the first block of data ~~directly~~ to the first client device from the first
19 controller device;
20 sending a synchronization message from the first controller device to the second
21 controller device; and
22 in response to the synchronization message, transferring the second block of data
23 ~~directly~~ to the first client device from the second controller device over a communication path
24 that does not include the first controller device.

1 31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the steps of retrieving the
2 data blocks, each include reading the data block from the storage system and applying one of an
3 encryption and a decompression algorithm to the read data block.

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices are communicably coupled over a bus.

1 33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices are communicably coupled over a storage area network.

1 34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices are communicably coupled to the storage system over a storage area network.

1 35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices transfer the first and second data blocks over the data communication network
3 at a faster rate than the rate at which the first and second data blocks are retrieved from the
4 storage system.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first
2 controller device communicates with the storage system over a storage area network.

37. (canceled)

1 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first
2 controller device is located in a network switch device coupled to the data communication
3 network.

1 39. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering streaming data content to a
2 client device over a data communication network in response to a request for the data content
3 from the client device, the method comprising:

4 receiving, by a first controller device, a request sent by a first client device to a
5 server over the data communication network, the request identifying streaming data content
6 stored on a storage system, ~~wherein the first controller device and the server are coupled by the~~
7 ~~data communication network;~~

8 processing the request by the first controller device; and

9 controlling coordinating, by the first controller device, the delivery of the
10 requested streaming data ~~directly~~ to the first client device over the data communication network
11 by both the first controller device and a second controller device, wherein the first controller
12 retrieves and delivers a first portion of the data to the client, and wherein the second controller
13 retrieves and delivers a second portion of the data to the client over a communication path that
14 does not include the first controller device.

1 40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the first controller
2 device is coupled to the storage system over a storage area network (SAN), wherein ~~controlling~~
3 coordinating includes:

4 retrieving, by the first controller device, a first portion of the streaming data
5 content from the storage system over the SAN; and

6 transferring the retrieved first portion of the data content directly to the ~~first~~ client
7 device over the data communication network from the first controller device.

1 41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, ~~further including sending~~
2 wherein the request is first sent to ~~[[the]]~~ a server by the client device.

1 42. (Original) The method of claim 41, further including notifying the server
2 that the request is being processed by the first controller device.

1 43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein controlling
2 includes:

3 transmitting a data request message from the first controller device to the second
4 controller device, wherein the data request message identifies the ~~first~~ client device and the data
5 content requested by the first client device, and wherein the second controller device is coupled
6 to the storage system over a storage area network (SAN);

7 retrieving, by the second controller device, ~~[[a]]~~ the second portion of the
8 streaming data content from the storage system over the SAN; and

9 transferring the second portion of the retrieved data content ~~directly~~ to the first
10 client device over the data communication network from the second controller device.

1 44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices are coupled by a communication bus.

1 45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the communication bus is a
2 PCI bus.

1 46. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first controller device is
2 located in a first network switch device coupled to the data communication network and wherein
3 the second controller device is located in a second network switch device coupled to the data
4 communication network.

1 47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices communicate over one of the data communication network and a back end
3 network.